

## **CITY'S NEW SERVICE PUTS PERMITTING AND INSPECTIONS ON DEVELOPER'S TIMETABLE**

The City of Cincinnati City Council, on June 20, 2007, approved the proposed "Optional Premium Services" ordinance unveiled by the Department of Buildings and Inspections (B&I) to better accommodate the often changing needs of development while providing customized services and "just-in-time" permit approval and inspections services. These services will be offered beginning on July 23, 2007.

"The City of Cincinnati is enhancing our services to help spur development throughout the city," said William. V. Langevin, Architect, C.B.O., Director of the Department of Buildings and Inspections. "We understand that, in the construction industry, time is money, so these new proposed City services help developers build projects in Cincinnati in a more cost efficient and timely manner."

The Premium Services being proposed are:

- **Phased Permitting:** Separate permits covering the different phases of construction of a building or structure - \$150 surcharge to Usual and Customary (U&C) permit fees for each phase;
- **After hours/weekend plan examination:** Billed at cost plus \$100 per hour in addition to the walk-through fee of \$400, the regular permit fee and any other fees that may accrue thereafter;
- **Express Plan Examination:** Proposed project construction team (architect, developer, contractor, etc.) meet face-to-face with City permitting team daily during business hours until the project plans are either approved and permit ready for issuance or changes/revisions required are beyond what is possible during the express meeting - \$500 application fee with plans submitted two weeks in advance plus \$800 per hour over and above U&C fees;
- **Same Day Permit Issuance:** Permit applications approved by all reviewing agencies will be issued the same day as approval as long as the request is received by noon - \$250 surcharge to U&C permit fees;
- **Same Day Building Inspections:** If a request for an inspection is received by noon, the inspection will be performed after-hours on the same day – Billed at cost plus \$150 surcharge; and,
- **After-hours and Weekend Inspections:** Billed at cost plus \$75 surcharge for such requests.

The additional fees that the developer or construction professional incurs when they ask for the premium services cover the enhanced service costs. This system enables those who do not seek

the Optional Premium Services to receive the same level of service currently provided by the City.